

ODDS AND ENDS.

In Scotland it is said that to rock the empty cradle will insure the coming of other occupants for it.

London university has now on its rolls 7 lady masters of art, 147 bachelors of art, 2 doctors of science, 21 bachelors of science and 8 ladies holding medical and surgical degrees.

Swallows and butterflies made of jet, gold tinsel, and beads fly across the skirts and bodices of some of the latest fashionable evening dresses of English ladies, and it is predicted that the new style will drive out flowers as a trimming.

A Russian government committee has prepared a plan for the through Siberian railway, to be completed in ten years. The total length of the line is to be 4,375 miles and the total cost 250,000,000 rubles.

Do you think you can read all the new books? In England last year the books published numbered 6,067. Of them 1,375 were new editions and 4,692 new books. Add to this number the new publications of Germany, France and America, and you can readily see how impossible it is to keep up with the press.

The revival of trade, noticeable throughout the whole of Europe, has not been without its effect in Austria. The settlements on the Vienna bourse in 1889 amounted to 2,598,000,000 florins, as against 2,835,000,000 in 1888, and trade and industry generally shows a similar improvement.

There is a curious enactment in Sweden in regard to commercial travelers. Any foreigner or Swedish subject residing abroad, who visits Sweden for the purpose of trade, must give a declaration as to how long he intends to stay, and must pay a tax of about 25 cents a month for the privilege of being allowed to conduct his business.

The expenditure of Paris actresses for their dresses have reached such an extravagant figure that at least one well known actress has refused to continue her engagement because she could not afford to buy the dresses needed for a new play that was about to be produced. Her salary was \$5,000 per year, and her dresses alone had cost her \$3,000 during the last year, although there had been but three plays.

It was the goddess Strenna (strength) who gave her name to Strenna, the Italian for New Year's gift, whence came the French word strenne, which means the same thing. On the first day of the year, in the earliest Roman times, champion wrestlers used to be conducted amid music and dancing to her temple, and there crowned with verdure, which had the reputation of giving strength to those who inhaled it. For that it was planted all around Strenna's temple, and also in courtyards and gardens.

Among the indications of decomposed fish are external and internal bleeding and clotting, which is intensified by exposure to the back bone of the fish. The eyes, gills, fins, scales, and skin are all affected. The scales are flabby, soft, insipid flesh; a fishy smell; loss of brightness and brilliancy about the scales; any luminosity or phosphorescence in the dark. When cooked, a sour or acid taste, with darkened colored blood, indicates decomposed fish. The darkening of a silver spoon indicates sulphur, a product of fish decomposition.

A specimen of the species of aecia, commonly called the angry tree, was brought from Australia and set out at Virginia, New. When the sun sets the leaves fold up, and the tender twigs curl tightly, like a little pig's tail. If the shoots are handled the leaves rustle and move as if in pain. If this queer plant is moved from one pot to another it seems angry, and the leaves stand out in all directions like quills on a porcupine. A most pungent and sickening odor, said to be resolvable that given off by rattlesnakes when annoyed, fills the air, and it is only after an hour or so that the leaves fold in the natural way.

The recently opened electric tramway connecting Clermont-Ferrand with Royat is only a mile and a half long, but on it are thirteen stations. The generating plant comprises a 150 horse power Farout engine and a six pole separately excited Thury dynamo, giving 350 amperes and 300 volts at 375 revolutions. The current is taken to the cars by an overhead conductor, the resistance as returned. Each car is driven by a 40 horse power Thury motor. The normal speed is eight miles an hour.

The names of the principal mountains in the world are nearly all suggestive or descriptive of their snow covered summits. The names of Showden, Ben Nevis, Mont Blanc, the Sierra Nevada, Snafel in Iceland and in the Isle of Man, the Sneeuw Bergen at the Cape of Good Hope, the Scaevallen in Norway, and the Weisshorn, the Weissmaas and the Tete Blanche in Switzerland, White mountains in New Hampshire, as well as the more archaic or more obscure names of Lebanon, of Caucasus, and of the Himalayas, are appellations descriptive, in various languages, of the characteristic snowy covering of their lofty summits.

In 1888 the total imports of ivory into England weighed 11,757 hundredweight. This would mean at least 60,000 tusks and the destruction of 30,000 elephants for this market alone. France, Germany and America share in these supplies, but they also obtain ivory direct, more especially Germany. One authority reckons that the average number of African elephants as high as 65,000 for export alone, besides which there is a large consumption in Africa itself, the chiefs in the center keeping the choicest tusks for the decoration of their temples, houses and graves.

Fortunes Waiting for the Heirs.

According to Mr. R. D. Evans, of 1,905 Seventh avenue, the heirs of Israel Ketcham, Jacob Joseph de Garmo, Brantington and Robert Crum, would hear of something decidedly to their advantage if they would only come forward and make themselves known to him. Messrs. Ketcham, De Garmo, Brantington and Crum were residents of New York between the years 1830 and 1820, and during that time bought some valuable lands in the state of Tennessee, which have never been claimed even up to the present day.

The records of the transfer of this property are preserved and the title is perfectly clear to any one who can prove that he is the sole surviving heir of any of those four men. In August, 1830, 2,500 acres of this land was sold to Israel Ketcham. He never claimed the property, having bought it probably merely for speculation. Such a man lived here in New York, and was for years a flour merchant down near Centies slip.

In the same year 2,500 acres were sold to Joseph Brantington, who signed himself "gentleman." On May 24, 1837, 5,000 acres were sold to Jacob de Garmo. And in 1839 10,000 acres of the land was sold to Robert Crum. Such a man did business as a broker for nineteen years at 4 New street. This land is in the midst of one of the best mining districts in Tennessee—New York Times.

Same as Usual.

The railroad man at Bellevue, O., who left a switch open and set down to smoke a cigar, while a collision took place before his eyes and one life was lost, informed the coroner that "he didn't mean to," and is today walking about as unconcerned as if he had killed a man in Texas.—Detroit Free Press.

HARD TIMES IN THE CONFEDERACY.

Striking Picture of the Exhausted Condition of the Troops.

In his book, "Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," Mr. Davis makes the statement that owing to a surplus of cash unused from previous appropriations and on hand in the fall of 1861, no appropriations were deemed necessary to carry the treasury over until the spring of 1863. The matter of lack of supplies was investigated during the winter, and in a secret session of congress at Richmond the following exhibit was made of the condition of Lee's subsistence department: "That there is not meat enough in the Southern Confederacy for the armies in the field. That there is not in Virginia meat and bread enough for the army in the field. That the supply of bread for those armies to be obtained from other places depends absolutely upon keeping open the railroad connections of the south.

"That the meat must be obtained from abroad through a seaport. That the transportation is not now adequate to meet the ever causing, to meet the necessary demands of the service.

"That the supply of meat to Lee's army is precarious, and if the army fall back from Richmond and Petersburg there is every probability that it will cease altogether.

The hard times in the Confederacy were known to every Union soldier who came in contact with the enemy on the Petersburg lines. There was regular communication between the opposing pickets, and there was an epidemic of desertions from the Confederate ranks, which alone would have encouraged the Union troops to believe that the bottom was dropping out of the Confederate system.

It is in Dixie more than confirmed the suspicions that were awakened by their action in deserting their colors. Their stories briefly were that the whole population of the south had given up all hope of success and wanted to get out of the south; that they were tired of the war; that the friends of the soldiers in the field encouraged them to desert, and that all of them would desert as soon as opportunity offered, except property owners; that the property of deserters was confiscated and their families were sold; that men who remained in the ranks would not fight any more, and that all of the firing, or nearly all, on the picket line was done under the orders and direction of the officers, and they in some cases handled the guns themselves; that many soldiers when captured to show were careful not to disclose their true names, and that they were afraid that the friends of the soldiers in the field might not fight again.

Circumstances might compel them to remain in the ranks, but nothing could induce them to do battle with their old time arid.

The condition of the men who came into the Union camps as deserters attested the truth of all that was told over the lines of the former aspect of things in Lee's camp. A deserter's first act on finding himself in the hands of the enemy was to appeal for food. Occasionally they were too modest to throw themselves boldly upon the mercy of an antagonist, but their famished and listless hungry eyes, wandering wistfully to the campfires and sometimes resting upon a refuse pile, led their captors to offer food the moment they had secured their prisoners. Often these men were barefoot and some of them had worn their trousers legs off half way to the knees. Such absolute distress among so large a number of men is seldom witnessed. And this was not confined to the men who came in as deserters. Every night Confederates came to the Union camps, wading through swamps and risking their lives where the pickets' bullets flew, in order to get bread and meat which their generous friends kindly gave out of an abundance.—George L. Kilmer.

Anna Dickinson's Bravery.

It was in one of the coal mining towns, and a crowd of rude, turbulent men had gathered to prevent Miss Dickinson from speaking. At she stepped upon the platform and greeted with kisses and screams, and as she advanced to the front the tumult increased. She did not shrink nor show one sign of fear; her eyes burned with a new light and her face paled a little, not from fear, but from excitement. With an undaunted air she stood there, with her head thrown back, her eyes blazing, one arm behind her, in the attitude all her admirers bend to be her own characteristic, stood waiting for the tumult to cease. Suddenly one man, more reckless or more inflamed with anger than the rest, drew a pistol from his pocket and fired. The shot cut off a lock of her long hair, but still she never flinched. The look of contempt deepened on her face, and the firm lips closed more tightly. For a moment there was a dead silence, then a voice cried out:

"Ah! but she's a brave luscie; let's hear what she has to say, boys."

In a second the tumult was turned. There was a responsive cheer, that was given with as much heartiness as had characterized the hisses before.

She stood conqueror in this curious and dangerous conflict of wills. One who heard her says that she spoke as though she was inspired, and she carried that audience of men with her.—Boston Herald.

Say Well and Do Well.

A short time before Dean Stanley's death he closed an eloquent sermon with a quaint verse, which greatly impressed his congregation. On being asked about it afterward, he said he was doubtful whether the lines were written by one of the earliest Deans of Westminster, or by one of the early Scotch Reformers.

The dean had come upon it by accident, and feeling that it expressed with singular felicity the true Christian proportion between doctrine and character, between good words and good works, he used it to point and adorn his sermon. Readers of The Companion may be glad to add it to their collections of good words:

Say well is good, but do well is better. Do well accurs spirit, say well the letter. Say well is good, and helpeth to please. But do well is welcome everywhere. Say well to silence sometimes is bound. But do well is free on every ground. Say well has friends come here home come there. But do well is welcome everywhere. By a well to many God's word cleaves. But for lack of do well it often leaves. If say well and do well were bound in one frame, Then were done, all that was won, and gotten were gain.

—Youth's Companion.

A Quick Witted Boy.

Loss of life was doubtless prevented by the prompt action of a little boy, eight years old, North Smith, Kingston recently. While playing near the West Shore railway track he discovered a mass of rock which had slid down over the south bound track in Fitch's cut, just after the watchman had passed. Seeing the Hudson River express rounding the curve some distance above, he made frantic efforts to warn the engineer of danger. The train was stopped just in time and was switched on the north track. Other trains were detained for a time. A private car, with P. W. Clement and family on board, was quickly made up for the little fellow.—New York Tribune.

EAGLE W. Va. March 3 1890.

Persons desiring to attend the Commencement exercises of the Hampton Institute which come off in May can secure reduced rates of 1/2 of the round trip fare by informing Dr. W. T. Merchants Eagle W. Va. Pres. of Alumni and who hold certificates from the R. R. officials of the C. & O. R. R. Tickets limited 15 days on any train, to and from.

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Woes of a Dentist.

"A man might as well be a hangman as a dentist, as far as expecting any gratitude for his services," remarked an aggrieved member of that unappreciated profession. "I have worked for hours over a bad filling in a woman's mouth, where I had to nearly dislocate my neck and tie my backbone into a bowknot, and at the end, if I ventured to straighten up with a sigh of relief, I have been rewarded with a stony glare of indignant condemnation.

"A woman will stand more pain than a man, for a woman has an inherent instinct showing herself to the best advantage," he continued. "A rubber band or a mouth stretched to its utmost capacity is not conducive to personal beauty, and therefore a woman will not add the further disfigurement of lack of courage.

"I remember a funny experience the other day with an old lady who wanted a tooth pulled. His face was elaborately tied up in red flannel, and his expression was the embodiment of woe. The tooth was a hard one to handle, and just as I gave it the final yank he gave a prolonged howl and fairly shot himself through the open window onto the sidewalk beneath. He rolled over this roof, still howling, and finally dropped from it to the ground all doubled up like a black rubber ball. All this, instead of hurting him, served to help his case, for he picked himself up and walked off apparently sound in mind and limb, and quite regardless of the fact that he had not paid me.

"I had a man once give me more than I wanted for pulling his tooth. He was a big, strapping fellow, and I thought the tooth would never come. The forceps slipped off three times, but the fourth time I clinched it. The man never moved nor made a sound until the tooth came out, when he doubled up like a rat and landed a blow on my chest that slapped me up against the wall as flat as a lump of putty. Then he took his hat and stalked out without waiting to see whether I ever got my breath again or not."—Boston Globe.

The Star of Bethlehem.

Astronomical calculations show that we shall witness a most interesting phenomenon in the course of 1890. A sixth star will be added to the five fixed stars forming the constellation of Cassiopeia. If this star appears in 1890, it will have been seen twelve times since the beginning of the Christian era. It was discovered last time by Tycho de Brahe in 1573, who described it as a star of extraordinary brightness, which outshone the stars of first magnitude, and could be seen in the light of day. But after three weeks the brightness faded, and after having been visible for seven months it disappeared as suddenly as it had come. The star is of 945 A. D., during the Emperor Otto's reign. It has been supposed that this heavenly body is the identical Star of Bethlehem, and it seems to appear once in about 315 years.—Cor. London News.

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TIME TABLE IN EFFECT FEB 23

Leave	Arrive	Leave	Arrive
Norfolk	8:40 a. m.	Danville	12:00 p. m.
Danville	1:05 a. m.	Norfolk	6:30 p. m.
Norfolk	12:15 p. m.	Danville	7:05 p. m.
Danville	3:30 p. m.	Norfolk	7:50 a. m.
Norfolk	11:30 p. m.	Danville	12:40 p. m.

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